

2018 Current Fiscal Year Report: California Desert District Advisory Council

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1. Department or Agency

Department of the Interior

2. Fiscal Year

2018

3. Committee or Subcommittee

California Desert District Advisory Council

3b. GSA Committee No.

1784

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

No

5. Current Charter

07/05/2018

6. Expected Renewal Date

07/05/2020

7. Expected Term Date

8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?

No

8b. Specific Termination Authority

5 U.S.C. Appendix

8c. Actual Term Date

9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year

Continue

10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

Not Applicable

10b. Legislation Pending?

Not Applicable

11. Establishment Authority Statutory (Congress Created)

12. Specific Establishment Authority

Federal Land Policy and Management Act, Sec. 309 and Sec. 601

13. Effective Date

10/21/1976

14. Committee Type

Continuing

14c. Presidential?

No

15. Description of Committee Non Scientific Program Advisory Board

16a. Total Number of Reports

No Reports for this Fiscal Year

17a. Open 1 17b. Closed 0 17c. Partially Closed 0 Other Activities 0 17d. Total 1 Meetings and Dates

Purpose	Start	End
The agenda for the meeting will include an update on the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan and updates from council members and the BLM California Desert District Manager.	03/20/2018	03/20/2018

Number of Committee Meetings Listed: 1

	Current FY	Next FY
18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff	\$5,148.00	\$11,000.00
18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members	\$3,340.00	\$10,200.00
18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff	\$1,927.00	\$4,200.00
18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00

18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)	\$2,500.00	\$5,000.00
18d. Total	\$12,915.00	\$30,400.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	1.20	1.50

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

The Council meets to gather and analyze information, make field examinations, hear public comment and testimony, ascertain facts and, in an advisory capacity only, develop recommendations for the BLM's California Desert District Manager concerning the use, classification, retention, or disposal of public lands, or any other aspects of public land planning and management in the public interest. Council members provide advice that represents the point of view of the category and constituents they represent. The committee continues to accomplish this purpose through an active meeting schedule of at least three meetings per fiscal year and with the establishment of subgroups to further facilitate the participation of interested members of the public to better arrive at meaningful advice to the designated federal officer.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

Council membership is balanced with respect to geographic considerations; members' interests, points of view, and place of residence; composition of the population of the area being served; Council functions to be performed; and the major issues and problems relating to the planning and management of the public lands within the BLM's California Desert District. In addition, at least one qualified member in each of the three interest groups identified in the Membership and Designation section of the current charter represents and provides advice to the District manager. Vacancies are filled as quickly as possible to ensure a balanced representation at any given time.

20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?

The Council meets two to three times annually, as determined by the BLM's California Desert District Manager. The Council meets to gather information, conduct field examinations, and assist in developing policy regarding BLM initiatives or programs, such as rangeland management, the proposed recreation fee pilot program, major proposed projects involving public lands, land exchanges, proposed mining operations, landfills, etc. Meetings maintain relevancy via focus topics for each meeting. This allows the committee to hear briefings on, and have discussions about, topics that are currently in the public interest regarding public land management.

20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?

The California Desert District Advisory Council is mandated by Congress, through the

Federal Land Policy and Management Act, to represent and present the views and concerns of their constituents, and advise the BLM California Desert District Manager on the BLM's management of public lands within the California Desert Conservation Area in southern California.

20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?

All meetings are open to the public. Notices of the meetings are published in the Federal Register, posted on the BLM California website, and distributed to local newspapers.

21. Remarks

The Council met once in FY18.

Designated Federal Officer

Beth Ransel BLM's California Desert District Manager

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Banis, Randy	02/19/2016	02/19/2019	Recreation	Representative Member
Burke, Robert	02/19/2016	02/19/2019	Public-at-Large	Representative Member
Francis, Nathan	02/19/2016	02/19/2019	Mining	Representative Member
Haney, Frazier	01/12/2017	01/12/2020	Mojave Desert Land Trust	Representative Member
Long, Michelle	01/12/2017	01/12/2020	Southern California Gas Co	Representative Member
Maguire, Mariana	01/12/2017	01/12/2020		Representative Member
Martin, Paul	01/12/2017	01/12/2020	Mining Engineer	Representative Member
Mitchell, William	02/19/2016	02/19/2019	Rancher	Representative Member
Muth, Francis	02/19/2016	02/19/2019	Wildlife biologist	Representative Member
Robinson, Robert	02/19/2016	02/19/2019	Tribal Interests	Representative Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 10

Narrative Description

The California Desert District Advisory Council was established by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (43 U.S.C.. 1701 et seq), as a citizens' advisory group to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Council members represent various categories of interest within the geographic area covered by the BLM's California Desert District.

What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

Improvements to health or safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Trust in government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Major policy changes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Advance in scientific research	<input type="checkbox"/>
Effective grant making	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improved service delivery	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increased customer satisfaction	<input type="checkbox"/>

Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements



Other



Outcome Comments

N/A

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

None



Unable to Determine



Under \$100,000



\$100,000 - \$500,000



\$500,001 - \$1,000,000



\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000



\$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000



Over \$10,000,000



Cost Savings Other



Cost Savings Comments

An in-depth analysis has not been done to determine cost savings associated with the California Desert District Advisory Council (DAC). However, the contributions of the DAC are of great benefit to the BLM.

What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?

162

Number of Recommendations Comments

At the March 20, 2018 meeting, the council voted to advise the Bureau of Land Management to proceed cautiously with implementation of the proposed amendment to the California Desert District Land Use Management Plan and examine issues that can be amended, minor amendments to the proposed Amendment and emphasize, in that language, that the grazing issue must come to a head and be resolved, top of the agenda, in fairness to longstanding family interests, custom and culture of the land. And they further advised continued public input throughout the rest of the process; that each DAC member recognizes that all members have troubling concerns with the reopening of the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan, but advise BLM to proceed cautiously with implementation.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?

64%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

The BLM is not able to fully implement all administrative recommendations if they are in violation of regulations.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?

46%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

The DAC had previously voted to establish a Mojave Trails National Monument subgroup to assist the BLM in the writing of the monument management plan. Representation would parallel original legislative advisory council recommendations. The implementation of this motion continues to be on hold.

Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

Agency Feedback Comments

The BLM's California Desert District provides feedback and/or updates regarding the status of the BLM's implementation of Council recommendations during the District Manager's report at the beginning of each formal DAC meeting and through ongoing email and regular mail communications.

What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?

Checked if Applies

Reorganized Priorities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Reallocated resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Issued new regulation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Action Comments

Upon recommendation of the DAC, the BLM has implemented focus topics for each DAC meeting. These focus topics allow the committee to receive briefings and engage in worthwhile discussions on topics of interest that facilitate the DAC's ability to provide advice and input to issues of importance to public land users.

Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?

No

Grant Review Comments

N/A

How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?

Checked if Applies

Contact DFO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Agency Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Committee Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online GSA FACA Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Publications	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Access Comments

The BLM Desert District also utilizes email, social media and direct mail.